

WILD RUMORS AFLOAT

Reports Go Round London That Chamberlain is Reconsidering.

TALK OF THE RECALL OF M... Round-Table Conference with Liberal Leaders in Contemplation.

ALL STORIES ARE QUICKLY DENIED

Daily Mail is Made the Mouthpiece of the Colonial Secretary.

ROBERTS' REPORTS ARE PUBLISHED

Disarmament of Every Hoer in South Africa He Declares to Be the Only Remedy, Though Necessarily a Slow One.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Public attention has again turned to South Africa by the dispatch of reinforcements and the publication of Lord Roberts' mail despatches.

Rumors have been in circulation that Mr. Chamberlain had reconsidered his South African policy and was contemplating a round-table conference with Mr. John Morley and Sir William Harcourt, and the recall of Sir Alfred Milner.

Lord Roberts' dispatches are not regarded as giving any further elucidation of the conduct of the war, but they are interesting, as providing that throughout the campaign he never had sufficient men, horses or supplies to cover such a vast field of operation.

Lord Roberts asserts deliberately that the permanent tranquillity of the republic depends on the complete disarmament of their inhabitants, a task difficult, admit, but attainable with time and patience.

Looking at all the circumstances, Lord Roberts says the campaign is "undoubtedly the gallantest and worth of the troops, declaring that "no finer force ever took the field under the British flag."

There is a general idea that the dispatches have been in the hands of the War office, they do not throw any further light on the summary retirement of General Colville or any other matters regarding which the public is anxious to hear.

The appearance of bubonic plague at Capetown seems likely to add to the difficulties of the situation. The authorities there have decided upon a wholesale extermination of rats. Should the disease spread it will necessitate changes in the military arrangements.

Today Sir Alfred Milner makes another earnest appeal to employers to allow as many men as possible to enroll in the colonial mounted police force.

It is reported that the British have captured Ermelo and Carolina, which until recently were Boer depots.

The Boers held up a Natal mail train near Vlakfontein. The few soldiers on board exhausted their cartridges and the Boers then rushed the train, afterward allowing the train to proceed.

British Capture Supplies. LONDON, Feb. 8.—Lord Kitchener reports to the War office under date of Pretoria, February 7, as follows:

The British column destroyed supplies at Petrusburg and brought 200 horses and cattle.

Dewet is reported still north of Smithfield, moving east in a force of 1,000 men across the line at Pampulidine moving on Philippolis.

Medusa reports from Lillfontein, east of Vryburg, that he scattered the enemy there and captured twelve wagons and cattle. French is near Ermelo.

Kitchener's Accuser Arraigned. CAMETOWN, Feb. 8.—Albert Cartwright, editor of the South African News, who was arrested yesterday charged with criminal and seditious libel contained in a letter accusing General Kitchener of secretly instructing his men to take no prisoners.

Weather Bureau Has a Scheme of Its Own for Wireless Telegraphy. NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—A special to the New York from Washington says: A new system of wireless telegraphy has been developed by the Weather bureau.

"It is a success," said Willis Moore, chief of the bureau, who has been experimenting for a year at Cobles Island, in the Potomac river, seventy miles below Washington.

"We have completed an apparatus that we expect will enable us to signal ships 500 miles or more out at sea. We shall soon send out ships equipped with receiving instruments. We have just completed a station at Roanoke, N. C., and will soon have stations at Hatteras and Cape Henry.

"We have succeeded in telegraphing perfectly with our wireless system for sixty miles over a rough country around Washington. That, I believe, is fully equal to the best transmission that has ever been accomplished by the Marconi method. Our system is quite distinct from his, and is being developed along our own lines.

"We succeeded in sending messages for some distance from a staff only three feet high. We established regular communication between the laboratory at Washington, sixty miles. One of our men has a beard near Fort Michigan, Va., across from Washington. A staff 100 feet high was on the place, and on the top we placed our instruments. We were able to communicate with the island as regularly and as free as though we were working over a wire. The speed of the waves was practically that of light.

"We used a system of dots and dashes and our receiver was of the 'soudier' type. We received messages by sound. We expect, however, to develop a receiver that will record messages. Notwithstanding our success, it does not seem that wireless telegraphy is developed yet to the point where it can be used for ordinary commercial purposes on land. The earth disturbances and the conditions that surround cities would prove obstacles."

DEBATE IT IN THE DIET

Members of Lower House Discuss Appointment of Jews as Assessors and Notaries.

BERLIN, Feb. 8.—In the lower house of the Prussian Diet today, during the debate on the estimates of the ministry of justice, Herr Kruger, radical, charged the minister of justice (Dr. Schomburgk) with intending to inaugurate and imperial legislation in the appointment of Jews as assessors.

In reply, the minister declared that it was those who desired the right of the king to fill all appointments in the administration who were guilty of a breach of the constitution.

In regard to the criticism that his term of office had been marked by a superabundance of changes of less majestic, the minister said that while Emperor William was above such attacks, it was the duty of the authorities to enforce the law against systematic endeavors to undermine all order and the respect due to the sovereign.

The number of Jews in Prussia had been only 124 in 1800, as against 200 in 1808. Herr Porstsch, centrist, said that all who disagreed with the Jews were not anti-Semites, but that it was still a fact that an overwhelming majority of the people strongly desired to live in a Christian country, governed in a Christian spirit.

In reply to a question as to the progress of the Konia (ritual) murder, the minister said he regretted the crime had not been followed by a majority of the people, who would have been in a position to judge the murderer was a Jew or a Christian, but he had resulted in practically nothing.

COUNT IS HOOTED AT MADRID

Speakers at the Capital Still Remember What Caserta Did During Carlos' Uprising.

MADRID, Feb. 8.—The count of Caserta, the father of Prince Charles of Bourbon, who is to marry the princess of the Asturias February 11, met with a hostile reception on his arrival here today. He was hooted by the crowd and there were cries of "Spit upon him."

The count was met by the Infanta Isabella and Eulalia and the foreign minister, Senor Campos, and was driving from the railroad station to the residence of the duke of Calabota. A crowd assembled outside the station and hooted and hissed him. The hostility was due to the speeches made recently by many politicians and to articles in the newspapers against the marriage on account of the part the Count of Caserta had taken in Carlos' uprising.

The police had to interfere today and disperse the crowd. Two arrests were made.

PRIEST GUILTY OF LIBEL

British Court Awards Forty Shillings Damages to Victor Emmanuel Ruthven, Lecturer.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The king's bench division of the high court of justice today found in favor of Victor Emmanuel Ruthven, described as a priest, in a libel suit brought against Emil de Rom, a Roman Catholic priest, for circulating a leaflet averring that the king's lectures were indecent.

Forty shillings damages were awarded. The court found in favor of De Rom respecting the publication of Ruthven's record, copied from the Cleveland Universe of March 15, 1895.

Rev. J. G. Patton, a Presbyterian missionary of the New Hebrides, testified that Ruthven's real name was Rliordan, and that he had given evidence against Rliordan in America, where in 1895 he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment for swindling a well-known man in America.

OUTLIVING KING'S SPEECH

British Cabinet Council Holds a Session to Frame the Document.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The cabinet meeting today will presumably settle the terms of King Edward's speech at the opening of his first Parliament, February 15, which may be expected to partially retract the speech to the privy council on accession day, expressing thanks for the condolences and expressions of loyalty, referring to his deep sense of the responsibility of his new position and announcing his determination to work for the welfare of all classes.

War funds and legislation to promote a fund for the poor will be among the topics. The king's reference to foreign relations and the Transvaal are especially eagerly awaited.

INTERNATIONAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

MONTE CARLO, Feb. 8.—In the games of the international chess tournament today Goleberg and Janowski won from Didier and Reggio, respectively, before the noon adjournment. In the games unfinished at that time Alapin had the better position over Marshall, while the other players were about evenly placed.

WILL RETURN EMPEROR'S VISIT.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—A dispatch from Portsmouth said that King Edward and Queen Alexandra had been ordered to be ready to take King Edward to flush when after the opening of Parliament, when his majesty will return Emperor William's visit to England.

INVITES TENDERS FOR BONDS.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The treasury invites tenders for a loan of £1,000,000 of exchequer bonds, with interest at 3 per cent. They will be dated March 7, 1901, and are repayable at par on December 7, 1905. The list opens February 11.

CONFERS WITH PARTY LEADERS.

ROME, Feb. 8.—King Victor Emmanuel conferred today with Senora Ivilla, Ricotti, Rudini and Biancheri, with the view of forming a new cabinet to succeed the Saraceni ministry, which resigned yesterday.

EX-KING MILAN II.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—Former King Milan of Serbia, according to a special dispatch from Vienna, is suffering from pneumonia. His condition is pronounced to be dangerous.

KAISER'S SON TO WED A COUSIN.

LONDON, Feb. 9.—It is rumored that Crown Prince Frederick William of Prussia is to marry Princess Ina of Battenberg, daughter of Princess Beatrice.

ENGLISH TRADE REPORTS.

LONDON, Feb. 8.—The statement of the Board of Trade for the month of January shows increases of £1,431,600 in imports and £1,159,900 in exports.

EMPEROR HONORS AMBASSADOR.

BERLIN, Feb. 8.—Emperor William has bestowed on Dr. von Holleben, the German ambassador at Washington, the crown order of the first class.

SIXTY THOUSAND REFUGEES.

PRETORIA, Feb. 8.—The Boer refugee camps are now administered by civilians. The refugees now total, approximately, 60,000.

ROUSSEAU DOESN'T FEEL JUST RIGHT.

PARIS, Feb. 8.—The premier, M. Waldeck Rousseau, is confined to his bed, but he expects to recover his usual health in a few days.

ISSUE FOR FORTY MILLIONS

Union Pacific Adopts Plan of Debenture Bonds Convertible Into Stock.

OFFERED TO STOCKHOLDERS AT PAR They Will Bear Interest from the First of May and Are Secured by Collateral in Treasury and First Mortgage.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—(Special Telegram.)—Formal announcement was made today that the directors of the Union Pacific had adopted a plan to issue debenture bonds convertible into stock at par, as already stated in The Bee, for acquisition of the controlling interest in the South Pacific.

The issue is to be for \$40,000,000, in ten-year 4 per cent. first mortgage and collateral trust gold bonds, convertible at the option of the holders at any time before May 1, this year, into Union Pacific common stock at par. The bonds will be redeemable after that date by the railroad company at 102 1/2. The new bonds will be offered to the Union Pacific stockholders for subscription at par.

The present issue is part of the authorized issue of \$50,000,000, but there is no intention of disposing at present of any other amount than the \$40,000,000 now issued to take up the Southern Pacific stock. The issue is underwritten by Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Chairman Harriman of the Union Pacific, in a circular to Kuhn, Loeb & Co., says the new bonds are to bear interest from May 1, payable semi-annually, and secured by valuable collateral now in the company's treasury, as well as by first mortgage upon about 1,300 miles of railroad, forming a part of the Union Pacific's present system, which is not now mortgaged.

Rights of Shareholders. Under the offer of subscription to the new Union Pacific stockholders have a right to subscribe for one bond for each fifty shares of either common or preferred shares owned. They also have the right to purchase 100 shares of the new bonds for \$40,000,000 to pay for the Southern Pacific stock acquired would indicate that the purchase price was about at current market prices, and certainly not far from 50. The stock acquired was a controlling interest, surely not more than a bare majority of the authorized \$200,000,000 of new bonds for the half share of capital in the Southern Pacific, and as the amount outstanding is reported as \$197,832,000, it is probably fair to conclude that the control cost the Union Pacific less than 50.

The new bonds will place a charge of \$1,600,000 a year of Union Pacific stocks, but as the Southern Pacific in its last fiscal year carried \$7,253,400 over all fixed charges, or nearly 3 1/2 per cent, on outstanding shares, exclusive of betterments, it is felt that the Southern Pacific, and as the amount outstanding is reported as \$197,832,000, it is probably fair to conclude that the control cost the Union Pacific less than 50.

After the Rio Grande. It was stated today on high authority that the Union Pacific had not acquired the Denver & Rio Grande, but the question whether some interest in the Union Pacific had not been negotiating for the road was less positively answered. It is stated, in fact, that such negotiations may have been undertaken, though this authority would not admit that they had been. President Jefferson Davis & Rio Grande has been in the city all the week. His visit generally is connected with the negotiations for the control of the road. It is thought the Rio Grande Western will be bought with any new disposition of the property.

A leading director of the Denver & Rio Grande said he knew nothing of current reports for consolidation of the Denver & Rio Grande with the Rio Grande Western, or with any other company, and he did not believe there were any negotiations to that end. President Burt of the Union Pacific has been in town for a couple of days. He was attending an executive committee meeting of the Union Pacific. He left for Omaha tonight.

HAYS TO REMAIN PRESIDENT

Summoned from San Francisco to Confer with Harriman and Burt on Overland Affairs.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—The Commercial Advertiser says: President Charles M. Hays of the Southern Pacific Railroad is expected to reach New York tomorrow, and is summoned from San Francisco for the purpose of conferring with Mr. Harriman and President Burt of the Union Pacific. It is generally believed that Mr. Hays will be asked to retain the presidency of the Southern Pacific.

With regard to recent rumors that H. E. Huntington did not sell his stock to the Harriman syndicate it may be stated that all of the Huntington holdings, as well as those held by Speyer & Co., were sold on equal terms.

The Commercial Advertiser also has the following: President Calloway was asked today if there was any truth in the current reports that the New York Central will be combined with the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific in forming a through line from ocean to ocean. "Not a word of truth in it," he said. "The New York Central line now extends as far west as Chicago and St. Louis and the system is sufficiently large as it is."

ANOTHER HARRIMAN SYSTEM

Southwestern Group Including Missouri Pacific, Katy, Rio Grande and Two Other Roads.

CHICAGO, Feb. 8.—The Tribune tomorrow will say: A scheme is under consideration whereby the Missouri Pacific, the two Rio Grande roads, the Colorado Southern, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas and the St. Louis & San Francisco are to be grouped in one system. The proposed plan would mean the formation of a Harriman southwestern railroad system.

Movements of Ocean Vessels. At New York—Arrived—Puerto Rican, from Naples (with one shaft broken); Kensington, from London; Bulgaria, from Hamburg. Sailed—Dresden, for Bremen; Liverpool—Arrived—New England, from Boston; Roumania, from New York. Sailed, Dec. 7—Tunislan, for Portland; At Boston—Sailed—Pomerania, for Glasgow.

At Southampton—Arrived—Vaderland, from New York. At Naples—Arrived—Hohenzollern, from New York, via Gibraltar, from Genoa, and proceeded.

At Yokohama—Arrived, Feb. 6—Braemar, from London. At Queenstown—Sailed—Pennland, from Liverpool for Philadelphia.

At Mobile—Sailed—Futaba, from Glasgow for London. At London—Sailed—Marquette, for New York.

At Port au Spain, Trinidad—Arrived—Prinzess Victoria Luise, from New York (on a West Indian cruise).

TO RECLAIM ARID LANDS

Congressman Burkett Sees It is Urgent to Hold Out for Mondell's Measure.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—(Special Telegram.)—The reclamation of arid lands was discussed extensively in the house committee on irrigation or arid lands today. Two bills were before the committee for consideration. Representative Newland's measure, which provides for the construction of reservoirs for the storage of water and for other hydraulic works, and Congressman Mondell's bill, which contemplated the conservation of water and the construction of irrigation canals.

The committee was evenly divided on many of the questions presented, but finally Congressman Burkett, asserting it would be useless to hold out for Mondell's measure, which has made many friends, decided to change his vote to Newland's measure, thereby securing a favorable report. While Newland's bill does not go as far as Mondell's, it is a step toward a system of national irrigation, which has been the battle-ground between the east and the west for years.

Nebraska Men in Army. Senator Thurston will call on the president tomorrow on matters connected with the new army bill, having decided to urge the following appointments: E. H. Tracy of Norfolk, who was major in the Second Nebraska Cavalry, and paymaster; Wallace C. Taylor, to be captain on staff; W. B. Cowin, first lieutenant of line; Henry Morrow, son of the late General Morrow, for first lieutenant; Thomas Swobe, captain and quartermaster, and a first lieutenant; and a first lieutenant on staff.

Company L, Thirty-ninth United States volunteers, who was a member of the First Nebraska, serving with that regiment through its Philippine campaign; he returned with the regiment and after it was mustered out re-enlisted at Omaha in the Thirty-ninth.

Union Pacific Anticipates. W. S. Pierce, general counsel of the Union Pacific, with headquarters in New York, was in Washington today on matters connected with his road, which has suggested the construction of a canal to such interest on its debt to the government.

Rural Free Delivery. Rural free delivery will be established in Iowa March 1 as follows: Marion, Linn county, additional service, two carriers; area covered is sixty-four square miles, with population of 100,000. Appointed carriers, at Truro, Madison county, with one carrier; area covered, thirty-seven square miles; population, 550; T. N. Lyons appointed carrier.

The post office at Leola, Lawrence county, S. D., is discontinued; mail to Elmore. A discounter of the currency today approved the application of James T. Bigelow, A. J. Knight, O. W. Erickson, John P. Tenold and E. G. Akam to organize the First National bank of Platteville, S. D., with \$25,000 capital.

Samuel E. Gilliland was appointed utility clerk in the Sioux City office.

POSTMASTERS APPOINTED.

Albert Wais was today appointed postmaster at Strausville, Ribaud county, Neb.; vice J. Schmidt, resigned; and Vanover, at Little Meigs, Albany county, Wyo.

FOR ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION

Bill Appropriating Five Millions is Reported for Favorable Action—Two Dissenting Opinions.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—Representative Tawney, minority chairman of the special committee on the St. Louis exposition, today filed his report on the bill appropriating \$5,000,000 in aid of the exposition. "The bill," says the report, "authorizes the holding of an international exposition at St. Louis, Mo., on the occasion of the centennial of the purchase of the Louisiana territory. However much heretofore may have opposed the holding of national or international expositions under the authority of the United States, in the view of the action of this congress in the last session, no ground upon which a refusal to authorize the holding of the proposed celebration and exposition is available."

The bill is reported for favorable action. "No event in the life of our nation except the achievement of national independence has contributed so much to the peace, prosperity, power and commanding influence of the American people as the purchase of the Louisiana territory. In the evolution of the North American republic, the acquisition of this territory outranks every other event."

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CAR BARN BURNS LIKE A TINDER BOX

Down Town House of Street Railway Company Totally Destroyed.

MUCH ROLLING STOCK IS CONSUMED Sixty Cars Go Up Along with Other Contents of Building.

METHODIST HOSPITAL IN GRAVE JANGER Proximity to the Roaring Furnace a Serious Menace to Safety.

PANIC STARTS AMONG THE PATIENTS Bedridden People Carried Through the Night Air to Private Homes.

LOSS ESTIMATED BY COMPANY OFFICERS One Hundred and Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars the Inside Figures.

THREE DOWN TOWN LINES INVOLVED Service on Farnam, Harney and Dodge Street Will Be Crippled as Result of the Fire of Last Night.

Loss on Building, \$65,000. Loss on Contents, \$60,000 to \$80,000. Insurance, \$75,000 to \$100,000. Lines Involved—Harney, Dodge and Farnam.

Cars Destroyed—Sixty. Building Erected—1877. Dismantled as Cable Powerhouse—1895. Machinery Removed—1897. Probability of Rebuilding—Remote.

Fire wrought havoc with the Omaha Street Railway company last night and simultaneously created wild panic at the Methodist hospital, which stands adjoining the scene of the conflagration.

The building at Twentieth and Harney streets occupied as general office headquarters and storage barn for the Harney, Farnam and Dodge street lines, is in ruins. Only the walls are left and they are crumpled to the verge of collapse.

The alarm was sounded at 11:15 o'clock. It was a fierce blaze. Almost from the beginning it was apparent that the building with its contents was doomed.

Prompt work of the firemen prevented the flames from taking hold upon the Methodist hospital—a shell-like frame structure less than 200 feet south of the railway building.

At one time it appeared certain that the hospital would stand and its thirty-four patients were hurried out into the crisp midnight air. Many of them were unable to walk and they were carried to places of safety in the neighborhood.

That touch of pity which makes the whole great kin caused the doors of neighboring houses to swing open and there was no difficulty in obtaining temporary shelter. The residence of John Austin, 507 South Twentieth street, being the most convenient, was used more generally than any of the others.

Where the Blaze Began. According to the most authentic information obtainable last night, the fire originated from electrical defects in a Dodge street car, which was temporarily stored for repairs in the southeast corner of the building and upon which the electric lines had been working. Daniel Mulvaney, night assistant fireman, was in charge when the fire broke out. A nurse watching by the bedside of a fever patient in the second story of the hospital adjoining saw the flames about the same time that Mulvaney made the discovery and the two alarms were sent in almost simultaneously.

Then started the work of removing the patients from the hospital, for the fierce manner in which the blaze ate its way into the interior of the railway structure warned the watching nurse that there was to be more than an ordinary fire.

General Alarm Sounded. As soon as the gravity of the situation was manifest a general alarm was sounded. The entire neighborhood for blocks around was aroused in several thousand men, women and children rushed upon the thrilling scene. Some crowded as close to the fire line as the police would permit, while others stood upon adjacent hilltops and looked down from their point of vantage. The surrounding territory was illumined by a flash for many blocks and telephone messages from Council Bluffs and South Omaha indicated that the flames were visible even at that distance.

It required but a few moments for the experienced eye of a fireman to discern that there was no hope of saving the street railway building, so the principal efforts were directed first to preventing the fire from eating into the hospital and next to saving as much as possible of the contents of the carhouse.

Over in Two Hours. At 1:30 o'clock the flames were practically subdued, though fitful blazes spluttered here and there among the ruins and all the steamers and a dozen lines of hose were still being used. The west and north walls were left intact, with the exception of windows and doors, all of which were destroyed, while the south and east walls were in bad condition. The greater part of the second-story walls on these two sides fell in, as did the roof and most of the upper floor. When the wall on the east collapsed the firemen of Engine company No. 1 were compelled to abandon one of their lines, with a nozzle and about 100 feet of hose, which were buried beneath the debris. Lieutenant Coff of the company, who was injured by some of the flying bricks, but not seriously, had no other accidents occurred.

SMITH ESTIMATES THE LOSS General Manager Gives His Idea of What the Fire Cost the Company.

General Manager Smith and General Superintendent Tucker of the company were on the ground during the progress of the fire. They were unable to do more than look on, beyond giving Chief Redell some needed information concerning the interior of the building. General Manager Smith said to The Bee reporter:

"I am unable to tell exactly the loss we have incurred. It is impossible to say just what cars were in the building, and so I could give no definite information on that

point. The estimate placed by officers of the Omaha Street Railway company as the loss sustained by the burning of the car barn at Twentieth and Harney streets last night. The building is practically totally destroyed, with its contents, which included some sixty cars. Of these latter about thirty were undergoing repairs, while the others were those used during the day on the Farnam, Harney and Dodge street lines. Service on these lines will be hampered to some extent today, but officers of the company believe they will be able to withdraw from the other lines of the system a number of cars and thus take care of the traffic with the least possible inconvenience to the public.

During the progress of the fire there was something very like a panic at the Methodist hospital, which is situated directly south of the building destroyed and which was in imminent danger of destruction for some time.